



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

19 June 2013

SAF/AAL (FOIA)  
1000 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1000

MuckRock News  
ATTN: Mr. Jason Smathers  
Dept MR 5185 P.O. Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear Mr. Smathers,

This is in response to your 4 May 2013, Freedom of Information Act request for all correspondence and other records between 1/1/2013 and the date this request is processed to or from the Secretary of Defense or his representative which contain the phrase "Harlem Shake."

Portions of records are exempt from mandatory disclosure and are being withheld because they contain personal data, which if released to the public would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The authority for this exemption may be found in United States Code, Title 5, Section 552(b)(6). The notation "(b)(6)" has been inserted for portions withheld using this exemption. Releasable portions are attached.

The denial authority in this instance is Christy Nolte, SES, USAF Deputy Director, Air Force Public Affairs.

Should you decide that an appeal from this decision is necessary, you must write to the Secretary of the Air Force at the address below in sufficient time so that the appeal reaches us no later than 60 calendar days after the date of this letter. Include in the appeal your reasons for requesting reconsideration, and attach a copy of this letter. Address your letter as follows:

Secretary of the Air Force  
Thru: SAF/AAL (FOIA)  
1000 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1000

Department of Defense Regulations 5400.7-AFMAN 33-302 indicated fees be assessed for processing this request; however, the fees are waived in this instance. If you have any questions please let me know at (703) 693-2579 and reference case number 2013-03878-F.

Sincerely,

DELLA MACIAS  
Government Information Specialist

Attachment:  
Responsive Documents

## ATTACHMENT

(b)(6) Col MIL USAF SAF/PA

**From:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2013 2:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Civ USAF AFMC HQ AFMC/PA  
**Subject:** FW: Viral Videos: Harlem Shake Air Force

-----Original Message-----

From: CLAVETTE, LARRY D CIV USAF AFPAA/CL [mailto:larry.clavette@us.af.mil]  
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 4:59 PM  
Cc: Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA; Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; HAUBOLD, ARTHUR C BGen USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA; Haubold Arthur C NGA-OND USA CIV; (b)(6) Maj MIL

(b)(6)

AIR  
ACC  
AFR  
C-  
ERS,

LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; Medders, Sherry C CIV USAF SAF/PAR; Murphey, William C Col MIL USAF SAF/PAX; PRESTON, CLARICE G Col USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; Varhegyi, Wendy CIV USAF SAF/PAY;  
(b)(6) LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAR;  
(b)(6) LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ  
Subject: Viral Videos: Harlem Shake Air Force

PA Directors,

You may have heard of a revival of a dance originating in 2011 or earlier called the Harlem Shake that has gone viral on YouTube. This dance has taken on a new twist recently and Air Force units (as well as other services) are filming and posting their version on YouTube.

You can view these videos by typing "Harlem Shake Air Force" in the search block of YouTube.

Please remind your PA offices not to support or post these videos to their websites. Many of these videos contain questionable behavior and dress by people participating in them. As a reminder, regardless of the method of communication used, Air Force standards must be observed at all times, both on and off-duty. Airmen must avoid offensive and/or inappropriate behavior on social networking platforms and through other forms of communication that could bring discredit upon on the Air Force or Airmen, or that would otherwise be harmful to good order and discipline, respect for authority, unit cohesion, morale, mission accomplishment, or the trust and confidence that the public has in the United States Air Force.

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Ms. Tanya Schusler, AFPAA chief of social media, at [tanya.schusler@us.af.mil](mailto:tanya.schusler@us.af.mil) or at (210) 395-1795 or DSN: 969-1795.

r/  
Larry  
LARRY D. CLAVETTE, GS-15, DAF  
Director  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency  
Phone: (210) 395-7944 DSN: 969-7944  
Blackberry: 210-852-3819  
[larry.clavette@us.af.mil](mailto:larry.clavette@us.af.mil)

(b)(6) Col MIL USAF SAF/PA

**From:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2013 2:42 PM  
**To:** Haubold, Arthur C Brig Gen MIL USAF SAF/PA; Haubold Arthur C NGA-OND USA CIV; Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO; (b)(6) Civ MIL USAF SAF/PAO; CLAVETTE, LARRY D CIV USAF AFPAA/CL  
**Subject:** FW: Viral Videos: Harlem Shake Air Force

Brig Gen Haubold

There are a number of these "Harlem shake" videos on YouTube, with the latest being from the Edwards AFB tower. I would recommend keeping this note handy, and perhaps discussing it with leadership in one of the morning meetings. Mr Fry contacted me this afternoon about the Edwards video (which has since been removed), but he said Gen Wolfenbarger was thinking of sending a note to senior leadership. So it might come up...

V/R  
JD

-----Original Message-----

**From:** CLAVETTE, LARRY D CIV USAF AFPAA/CL [<mailto:larry.clavette@us.af.mil>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 4:59 PM  
**Cc:** Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA; Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; HAUBOLD, ARTHUR C BGen USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA; Haubold Arthur C NGA-OND USA CIV; (b)(6) Maj MIL USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Capt USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA; (b)(6) Maj USAF AFPAA/PA; (b)(6) GS-12 USAF AFPAA/PAOT; HIGHT, VICTORIA L 1Lt USAF AFPAA/PAOT; GREVER, STEVEN R TSgt USAF

(b)(6) AIR  
ACC  
AFR  
C-  
ERS,

LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; Medders, Sherry C CIV USAF SAF/PAR; Murphey, William C Col MIL USAF SAF/PAX; PRESTON, CLARICE G Col USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; Varhegyi, Wendy CIV USAF SAF/PAY; (b)(6) LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAR; (b)(6) LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ  
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r/

Larry

LARRY D. CLAVETTE, GS-15, DAF

Director

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

Phone: (210) 395-7944 DSN: 969-7944

Blackberry: 210-852-3819

[larry.clavette@us.af.mil](mailto:larry.clavette@us.af.mil)

(b)(6) Col MIL USAF SAF/PA

**From:** (b)(6) Civ USAF AFMC HQ AFMC/PA (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2013 1:34 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** SAF/PAO; Doss, (b)(6) Civ USAF AFMC 412 TW/PA  
**Signed By:** RE: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower  
ronald.fry@us.af.mil

JD  
Thanks. I've seen various versions of the "Skake" but was not aware it had  
cropped up at Edwards.

... Thanks  
Ron

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
(b)(6)

Civ MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Subject:** FW: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD  
Control Tower

Mr Fry

Not sure if you were aware of this Harlem Shake video issue. The video's  
since been removed from YouTube. Some of our troops have been doing goofy  
videos like this because it's the latest craze...

I don't think there's any action required at this point, but wanted you to  
have visibility.

V/R  
JD

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:01 AM  
**To:** Nolita, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Civ MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Subject:** RE: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD  
Control Tower

Ma'am-- No calls or queries thus far. Since it's been removed I don't see us  
getting anything on it.

If so, we can easily enough confirm, acknowledge it was inappropriate,  
accountability, etc...

Vr,



(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 3:05 PM  
To: (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO; (b)(6) Civ MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
Subject: FW: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower

Any insight, concerns?

-----Original Message-----

From: Jones, James J Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A30  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 2:59 PM  
To: Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA  
Cc: Field, Burton M Lt Gen MIL USAF AF/A3/5; Ettenson, Gordon M SES USAF AF/A30; Holmes, Mike Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A3/5; Disbrow, Harry SES USAF AF/A3/5; Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B; (b)(6) Maj MIL USAF AF/A3/5; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF AF A3/5 EXEC; (b)(6) Maj MIL USAF AF/A3/5  
Subject: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower

Les, want to ensure you're aware of a video that was apparently posted on YouTube of ATC controllers doing a "Harlem Shake" act in the Edwards tower. Have to admit, I'm not aware of the details, and the video has been pulled from YouTube so I can't review it, but as you'll see in the attached email trail the CFM believes it was "incredibly inappropriate". Edwards is taking appropriate action--just wanted you to be aware in case this resurfaces somewhere else...and if/if it becomes an issue we'll need to ensure leadership is informed accordingly.

v/r  
Rev

-----Original Message-----

From: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 2:48 PM  
To: Jones, James J Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A30  
Cc: Ettenson, Gordon M SES USAF AF/A30; Ruehl, Steven A CIV USAF AF/A30 DOS; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B; Helvey, Michael W Col USAF AF/A30-B FAA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA; Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B; (b)(6) Civ USAF AFMC HQ AFMC/A3  
Subject: Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower

Sir,  
AFMC/Edwards Twr was where this was shot, it has been pulled from YouTube and Edwards and AFMC COC are taking appropriate action.

V/R,  
Pton

-----Original Message-----

From: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:47 PM  
To: Jones, James J Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A30

Cc: Ettenson, Gordon M SES USAF AF/A30; Ruehl, Steven A CIV USAF AF/A30 DOS;  
(b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B; Helvey, Michael W Col USAF AF/A30-B  
FAA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA; Pennington, Steven CIV USAF  
AF/A30-B  
Subject: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower

MG Jones,  
Sir,

There is a YouTube video that appears to be shot in a AF/DoD control tower  
(appears to be Airmen), where the controllers are doing a Harlem Shake act  
(not right place or time to be doing the Harlem Shake). We are working w/  
MajComs to ID whether this was in an AF Facility. Chief Joe Kirk is running  
the traps on this one.

Once we run this down, will push a note up to A3/5 w/ details. If this goes  
viral on the net, will potentially need to craft note for CSAF and SecAF.

YMHS,  
Pton

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:22 PM  
To: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B  
Cc: (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B  
Subject: Issue!

Mr. Pennington -

I was just advised of the below video that has been posted to youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IWV2EBFD1Y>

(b)(6) CMSgt, USAF  
Air Traffic Control (1C1) Career Field Manager  
HQ HAF/A30-BA  
1480 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1480  
DSN: (b)(6)  
Email: (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Col MIL USAF SAF/PA

**From:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO (b)(6)  
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**To:** Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Civ MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Subject:** RE: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)

Ma'am-- No calls or queries thus far. Since it's been removed I don't see us getting anything on it.

If so, we can easily enough confirm, acknowledge it was inappropriate, accountability, etc...

Vr,

Brett

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(b)(6) CMSgt, USAF  
Air Traffic Control (1C1) Career Field Manager  
HQ HAF/A30-BA

1480 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1480

DSN: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Col MIL USAF SAF/PA

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 4:59 PM  
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(b)(6)

LtCol USAF AFPAA/DD; DORRIAN, JOHN L LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; Medders, Sherry C CIV USAF SAF/PA; Murphey, William C Col MIL USAF SAF/PAX; PRESTON, CLARICE G Col USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; Varhegyi, Wendy CIV USAF SAF/PAY; (b)(6) LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) LtCol USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ

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[larry.clavette@us.af.mil](mailto:larry.clavette@us.af.mil)

(b)(6)

**Col MIL USAF SAF/PA**

---

**From:** Auld, Elisabeth Col MIL USAF SAF/PA [Elisabeth.Auld@pentagon.af.mil]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2013 4:40 PM  
**To:** Haubold, Arthur C Brig Gen MIL USAF SAF/PA; Nolte, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA  
**Cc:** Dorrian, John L Lt Col MIL USAF SAF/PAO  
**Subject:** FW: Issue: Harlem Shake v ATC  
**Signed By:** elisabeth.auld@us.af.mil

Sir/Ma'am: this is what the ATC CFM sent to the MAJCOMs regarding the Edwards Tower issue. v/r E

ELISABETH S. AULD, Col, USAF  
Director of Staff, Public Affairs  
DSN 227-6061 703-697-6061

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2013 3:03 PM

(b)(6)

AFSOC AFSOC/A3AA; WILSON, DAVID S CMSgt USAF AETC AETC/A30F  
**Cc:** Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF  
A30-B; Auld, Elisabeth Col MIL USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL  
USAF AF/A30-BA  
**Subject:** RE: Issue: Harlem Shake v ATC

MFMs -

The "Harlem Shake v ATC" video has been removed from YouTube. It was determined that the video was staged at Edwards Tower.

Leadership at all levels will ensure appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

Please reinforce with our controller force their responsibility to ensure they evaluate any action under the light of professionalism, appropriateness and image. While I'm sure the intent was merely jest, the opinion formed by this form of negative image puts at risk the reputation of our AFSC and the USAF.



(b)(6), CMSgt, USAF  
Air Traffic Control (1C1) Career Field Manager  
HQ HAF/A30-BA  
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Washington, D.C. 20330-1480  
DSN: (b)(6)  
Email (b)(6)

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From: (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:37 PM

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CMSgt USAF AETC AETC/A30F  
Cc: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B; Ricker, Robert A Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B; Auld, Elisabeth Col MIL USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA  
Subject: Issue: Harlem Shake v ATC

MFMs -

I have just been made aware of the "Harlem Shake v. ATC" video posted to YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IWV2EBFD1Y>

While the "Harlem Shake" trend has gained a great deal of momentum, this specific example staged in a USAF Air Traffic Control Tower is incredibly inappropriate. The Air Traffic community has experienced enough negative press without our USAF controllers adding to this.

This video has gained attention at higher levels and we need to determine the location. I would like to identify and address this, before this escalates.

Please let me know if you have any information as soon as possible.

(b)(6) CMSgt, USAF

Air Traffic Control (1C1) Career Field Manager

HQ HAF/A30-BA

1480 Air Force Pentagon

Washington, D.C. 20330-1480

DSN: (b)(6)

Email

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**From:** Jones, James J Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A30  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2013 2:59 PM  
**To:** Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA  
**Cc:** Field, Burton M Lt Gen MIL USAF AF/A3/5; Ettenson, Gordon M SES USAF AF/A30; Holmes, Mike Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A3/5; Disbrow, Harry SES USAF

AF/A3/5; Nolte, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; Pennington, Steven CIV USAF  
AF/A30-B; (b)(6) Maj MIL USAF AF/A3/5; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL  
USAF AF A3/5 EXEC; Bucheit, Eric Maj MIL USAF AF/A3/5  
Subject: Routine/Information//Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD  
Control Tower

Les, want to ensure you're aware of a video that was apparently posted on  
YouTube of ATC controllers doing a "Harlem Shake" act in the Edwards tower.  
Have to admit, I'm not aware of the details, and the video has been pulled  
from YouTube so I can't review it, but as you'll see in the attached email  
trail the CFM believes it was "incredibly inappropriate"... Edwards is taking  
appropriate action--just wanted you to be aware in case this resurfaces  
somewhere else...and if/if it becomes an issue we'll need to ensure  
leadership is informed accordingly.

v/r  
Rev.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 2:48 PM  
To: Jones, James J Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A30  
Cc: Ettenson, Gordon M SES USAF AF/A30; Ruehl, Steven A CIV USAF AF/A30 DOS;  
(b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B; Helvey, Michael W Col USAF AF/A30-B  
FAA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA; Pennington, Steven CIV USAF  
AF/A30-B; (b)(6) Civ USAF AFMC HQ AFMC/A3  
Subject: Update: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower

Sir,  
AFMC/Edwards Twr was where this was shot, it has been pulled from YouTube  
and Edwards and AFMC COC are taking appropriate action.

V/R,  
Pton

-----Original Message-----

From: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:47 PM  
To: Jones, James J Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/A30  
Cc: Ettenson, Gordon M SES USAF AF/A30; Ruehl, Steven A CIV USAF AF/A30 DOS;  
(b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B; Helvey, Michael W Col USAF AF/A30-B  
FAA; (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA; Pennington, Steven CIV USAF  
AF/A30-B  
Subject: Info: Harlem Shake Video in AF/DoD Control Tower

MG Jones,  
Sir,

There is a YouTube video that appears to be shot in a AF/DoD control tower  
(appears to be Airmen), where the controllers are doing a Harlem Shake act  
(not right place or time to be doing the Harlem Shake)... We are working w/  
MajComs to ID whether this was in an AF Facility. Chief (b)(6) is running  
the traps on this one.

Once we run this down, will push a note up to A3/5 w/ details. If this goes  
viral on the net, will potentially need to craft note for CSAF and SecAF.

YMHS,

Pton

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CMSgt MIL USAF AF/A30-BA  
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:22 PM  
To: Pennington, Steven CIV USAF AF/A30-B  
Cc: (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USAF A30-B  
Subject: Issue!

Mr. Pennington -

I was just advised of the below video that has been posted to youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IWV2EBFD1Y>

(b)(6) CMSgt, USAF  
Air Traffic Control (1C1) Career Field Manager.  
HQ HAF/A30-BA  
1480 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1480  
DSN: (b)(6)  
Email (b)(6)

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